

non-circular shoulders. The non-circular shoulders provide the function of anti-rotation when seated, Houghton does not provide this function. The applicant submits that Houghton does not anticipate claims 14-18 and 20-23 because this reference does not disclose the means limitations required in these claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-12, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Houghton in view of DE 1,605,178. Independent claims 1, 8 and 25 each recite a non-circular surface of either a support plate, or a piston that can be seated or unseated with a corresponding non-circular seat of the housing. When seated, the support plate or piston cannot rotate. When seated these elements can freely rotate. The secondary German reference does not disclose an element that can be seated and unseated. As the undersigned understands the German reference element 1 does not move in an axial direction between seated and unseated positions. The applicant therefore submits that this reference would not teach one skilled in the art to modify the support plate or piston in Houghton to allow rotation when in an unseated position yet prevent rotation when seated. For these reasons the applicant submits that the combination of Houghton and the German reference do not render obvious claims 1-6, 8-12, 25 and 26.

The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Houghton in further view of DE 1,605,178, in further view of Nelson. The Examiner rejected claims 19 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Houghton in view of Nelson. The applicant submits that these claims are allowable for being dependent upon allowable independent claims.

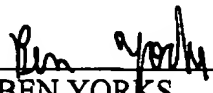
In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-26 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
IRELL & MANELLA LLP

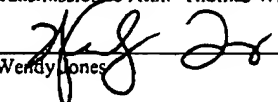
Dated: July 14, 2003

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile transmission to Attn: Thomas Williams, (703) 305-7687 on July 14, 2003.


Wendy Jones
Date 7/14/03

APPENDIX

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 27 and 28 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 8, 14, 20 and 25 have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A vibration isolator, comprising:

a housing that has an outer non-circular seat;

a support plate that has a non-circular shoulder that seats within said non-circular seat of said housing and can move in [both] an axial direction, said support plate moves in a [and] rotational direction relative to said housing when unseated from said housing and does not rotate when seated in said housing; and,

a pendulum assembly coupled to said support plate.

8. (Twice Amended) A vibration isolator, comprising:

a housing that has an inner non-circular seat;

a support plate that can move in [both] an axial direction, said support plate moves in a [and] rotational direction relative to said housing when unseated from said housing and does not rotate when seated in said housing;

a piston that has a non-circular outer surface; and,

a cable coupled to said piston and said support plate.

14. (Twice Amended) A vibration isolator, comprising:

a housing that has outer alignment means;

a support plate that has means for seating said support plate [aligning]with said outer alignment means of said housing and can move in an axial direction, said support plate moves in a rotational direction relative to said housing when unseated from said housing and does not rotate when seated in said housing; and,

a pendulum assembly coupled to said support plate.

20. (Twice Amended) A vibration isolator, comprising:

a housing that has inner alignment means;

a support plate that can move in both an axial and rotational direction relative to said housing;

a piston that has alignment means for seating said piston [aligning]with said inner alignment means of said housing and can move in an axial direction, said piston moves in a rotational direction when unseated from said housing and does not rotate when seated in said housing; and,

a cable coupled to said piston and said support plate.

25. (Twice Amended) A method for aligning a support plate of a pneumatic vibration isolator, comprising:

releasing a fluid from a housing of a vibration isolator such that a support plate becomes seated within a non-circular seat of the housing and cannot rotate, the support plate being coupled to a pendulum assembly, the support plate being capable of movement in both an axial, and rotational direction when unseated from said housing.